



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

## New building codes

After enforcing the uniform building codes since 1970, the Washington State Legislature adopted the State Building Code Act, which becomes effective on July 1, 2004. This incorporates the 2003 editions and amendments of the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Mechanical Code, International Fire Code, and Uniform Plumbing Code. These codes will ensure safer buildings in Clark County. [Click here to read the rest of the article.](#)★

## Construction activity sets record

Construction activity set a 25 year record in Spring 2004. Richard Carson, the director of Clark County's Community Development Department, said the county issued \$43 million/month in commercial and residential building permits for April and May. That's the highest level of construction valuations since the county started keeping records in 1980.

Building permits for new single family dwellings were also at a new high in May 2004. The county issued 232 permits in the month, which is the most permits issued in May since 1996. Carson said that, "The local market is probably compensating for the low number of permits issued in the first quarter." Carson attributed the poor first quarter showing to the severe weather experienced countywide in January. Carson said, "I think the second quarter of 2004 will show that the county is back on the fast growth track we have been experiencing since the 1990s."★

## Strategic Plan 2004-2010

The Clark county Community Development Department drafted its first strategic plan in 2000. Every two years, the department has assessed its progress and updated the plan. DCD's Strategic Plan does not sit on a shelf and collect dust.

The strategic plan is important because it:

- Guides division level improvement projects;
- Implements department wide problem solving;
- Identifies priorities which, in turn, help budget preparation.

The 2004 update of the plan was significant. The department updated assumptions and took a close look at the functions of the department. The functions are "what we do".

Core functions are the activities that define the department and implement its primary mission.

Ancillary functions are the functions that support the core functions.

Elective functions are performed because they create a public good or administrative efficiency, but



are not absolutely essential to the mission.

### DCD Core, Ancillary and Elective Functions

Core	Ancillary	Elective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code maintenance and enhancement</li> <li>• Personnel management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract management</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project review</li> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Investigations</li> <li>• Intake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records management</li> <li>• Financial management</li> <li>• Information and referral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public education\public information</li> <li>• Performance and quality management</li> <li>• Process improvement</li> </ul>

The analysis of the functions and the amount of time spent working in each area reveals that DCD is very focused on the core and ancillary functions. This is positive confirmation that the department is focused on the primary tasks one would expect from a community development organization.

The department management team identified new strategies for 2004-2010. The overall strategic direction is to **deliver high quality public services that are valued by the customer and to provide them in a manner, and at a cost, that creates a benefit to the community.**

The strategies are:

- Recognize Clark County as an urbanizing county and define and implement community development activities required in a maturing community.
- Consider land use planning, development, building and code enforcement as an integrated system

with a short and long term need for maintenance of public health and safety.

- Continually analyze the services provided to the public and whether

or not there is a need to continue the same service at the same scale and through the same methods.

- Use financial planning to balance revenues and services.
- Create greater efficiency and effectiveness by focusing on collaborative training, resource use, procedure and activities for the department's core and ancillary functions.
- Support and train employees as they deliver high quality services and respond to changing expectations.

Each strategy has supporting implementation projects. In addition, each division will review their strategic plan to identify projects specific to their division that carry out the strategies.

Community Development is proud of its updated strategic plan. Diligent work on earlier strategic plans has increased the department's ability to prepare and implement strategic directions. The strategic di-



### Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Data Library
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

### Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Permit Center
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning

rections in this plan reflect:

- A more cohesive management team.

Projects reflect more interaction between divisions and consider the progress of development from the beginning of planning to the long term maintenance of structures and the environment.

- A more comprehensive view of the challenges and benefits of the growth management act

Projects begin to grapple with service delivery in a community that is becoming more urban and is changing in attitudes and because of annexation.

- A more integrated view of services and finances.

Projects begin to balance the questions of what should we do, how we do it, and how we pay for it.

For a copy of the strategic plan, visit the Community Development page on the Clark County Web site ([www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov)) or call Marlia Jenkins at (360) 397-2375 ext. 4405 or send an email to [marlia.jenkins@clark.wa.gov](mailto:marlia.jenkins@clark.wa.gov). \*

## ComDev in the News

"Horse lovers find a way." - The Columbian, 6-17-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06172004/front\\_pa/156805.html](http://www.columbian.com/06172004/front_pa/156805.html)

"Amphitheater can use back roads." - The Columbian 6-16-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06162004/front\\_pa/156401.html](http://www.columbian.com/06162004/front_pa/156401.html)

"New rules for home businesses approved." - The Columbian, 6-16-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06162004/clark\\_co/156521.html](http://www.columbian.com/06162004/clark_co/156521.html)

"County grants amphitheater approval for second exit route." -

The Oregonian, 6-16-04

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/108738744073860.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/108738744073860.xml)

"Developer faulted for harm to wetlands." - The Columbian, 5-30-04

[http://www.columbian.com/05302004/clark\\_co/150326.html](http://www.columbian.com/05302004/clark_co/150326.html)

"County to allow home businesses." - The Columbian, 6-3-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06032004/front\\_pa/152056.html](http://www.columbian.com/06032004/front_pa/152056.html)

"Paradise lost?" - The Columbian, 6-3-04

<http://www.columbian.com/06032004/neighbor/151793.html>

"Storedahl biologist sees benefits." - The Columbian, 6-3-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06032004/clark\\_co/151884.html](http://www.columbian.com/06032004/clark_co/151884.html)

"Rural business law moves closer to approval." - The Oregonian, 6-3-04

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro\\_north\\_news/1086264387212870.xml](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/1086264387212870.xml)

"Mining foes, supporters make cases." - The Columbian, 6-2-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06022004/clark\\_co/151628.html](http://www.columbian.com/06022004/clark_co/151628.html)

"No ruling yet on home-business laws." - The Columbian, 6-2-04

[http://www.columbian.com/06022004/clark\\_co/151658.html](http://www.columbian.com/06022004/clark_co/151658.html)

"Developer faulted for harm to wetlands." - The Columbian 5-30-04

[http://www.columbian.com/05302004/clark\\_co/150326.html](http://www.columbian.com/05302004/clark_co/150326.html) \*

## What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org) \*

## Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at [desiree.demoneye@clark.wa.gov](mailto:desiree.demoneye@clark.wa.gov). \*